Adult and Informal Education Centres

†999. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of adult and informal education centres operating in the country, especially in Punjab, alongwith the locations thereof;

(b) whether all these centres are working without any hindrance;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more such adult and informal education centres in Punjab; and

(d) if so, the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [(DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Continuing Education Centres (CECs) are established under the scheme of Continuing Education. The Centres target neo-literates, school dropouts and all others interested in availing opportunities for life long learning. Under the scheme, 1,01,013 Continuing Education Centres and 12,050 Nodal Continuing Education Centres have been sanctioned so far in the country for operationalisation including 1,130 in District Hoshiarpur in Punjab. The efforts of the Government are to bring all the districts of Punjab under the scheme of Continuing Education. The powers to sanction Continuing Education projects are vested in the respective State Literacy Mission Authorities. As per available information the Continuing Education Centres are working normally.

The scheme of Non Formal Education has been revised as the Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education (EGS & AIE), as part of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan targeting the universalisation of Elementary Education for the age group of 6-14 years and made operational *w.e.f.* 01.04.2001. Hence no funding is being provided to the erstwhile Non Formal Education Centres with effect from 01.04.2001.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.